

EPA ENERGY STAR® Enhanced Testing and Verification Frequently Asked Questions

(FAQ)

1. Q: When will the ENERGY STAR Enhanced Testing and Verification requirements go into effect?

A: January 1st, 2011.

2. Q: How will ENERGY STAR partners qualify products under the new Enhanced Testing and Verification requirements?

A: ENERGY STAR partners have historically been able to test their products in any laboratory of their choice, and submit product data directly to EPA for review pursuant to qualification. Under the new requirements, partners will be required to test their products in an EPA-recognized laboratory of their choice, and ensure that laboratory submits the resultant product test reports to an EPA-recognized Certification Body, also of the partners' choice. Upon a successful review of a product test report, the Certification Body will notify the partner that the product in question is qualified, and submit the qualified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. A flowchart describing the details of the new procedure, "ENERGY STAR Process Flow Diagram and Explanation," is available at the [ENERGY STAR Enhanced Testing and Verification website](#).

3. Q: Where can I find a list of EPA-recognized Accreditation Bodies, Laboratories, or Certification Bodies?

A: Links to these lists are provided in the Enhanced Testing and Verification Resources table at the [ENERGY STAR Enhanced Testing and Verification website](#). EPA continues to process applications for recognition, and will update these lists on an ongoing basis.

4. Q: How long will it take the Certification Body to review a test report?

A: EPA anticipates this will differ between product categories and certification bodies. As part of its application, a CB is required to provide EPA with a detailed description of its review process in order to allow EPA to estimate its potential impact on partners' product introduction cycles. EPA intends to seek a commitment from Certification Bodies to review test reports within a timeframe that adequately addresses partners' concerns regarding product development cycles, and time-to-market.

5. Q: When may I begin to market my product as ENERGY STAR qualified?

A: Partners may begin to market products as ENERGY STAR qualified as soon as they receive notice from their CB that the product meets the ENERGY STAR specification. The only exception to this is the *first* product that a prospective Partner qualifies. In this case, EPA will need to complete the application process and provide the new ENERGY STAR partner with the label and ENERGY STAR Identity Guidelines to market its product as ENERGY STAR qualified.

6. Q: How many of my products will be subject to ongoing verification testing, and how often will this occur?

A: Certification bodies are responsible for annually selecting 10% of the products that they have certified for verification testing. At least half of these products will be selected randomly. As such, the number of an individual Partner's products that are subject to verification testing in a given year will vary. CBs also have discretion to determine when products will be selected, so the testing may take place on a quarterly, bi-annual, or annual schedule depending on CB and product category.

7. Q: How much will the new testing and verification procedures cost?

A: EPA intends to allow market forces to determine the cost of accreditation, testing and certification services.

8. Q: Who will fund the new testing and verification procedures?

A: The new testing and verification procedures will be partner-funded. Partners will pay laboratories and certification bodies directly.

9. Q: Will products I qualified prior to January 1st, 2011 have to be retested after the effective date in order to remain qualified?

A: It is anticipated that currently qualified products will not need to be retested to remain qualified. However, shortly before the new requirements enter effect, EPA will ask the partner to review its list of qualified products, and inform EPA of which of those products the partner would like to remain qualified. EPA will then provide that list of products to an EPA-recognized Certification Body of the partner's choice. The Certification Body will then be able to select models from that list for the purpose of verification testing.

10. Q: Can I use a first-party (manufacturer-owned) laboratory for qualification testing?

A: Yes, you may use a first-party laboratory as long as it is EPA-recognized. A requirement for first-party laboratories is that they be supervised or witnessed by an EPA-recognized certification body. For details on supervised or witnessed manufacturer testing labs (SMTL/WMTL), see Appendix A of the [“Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Certification Bodies for the ENERGY STAR Program”](#) (link).

11. Q: Can I use a first-party laboratory for verification testing?

A: Yes, in some rare cases where off-the-line testing is the only feasible option. If the unit selected for verification is obtained off-the-line from the manufacturing facility, the verification testing may be performed at an EPA-recognized, first-party laboratory provided that qualified CB personnel witness the test. EPA anticipates that off-the-line testing will only be an option for extremely large, expensive, or custom-built products.

12. Q: Must I use an accredited laboratory?

A: You are required to use an EPA-recognized laboratory, but not all EPA-recognized laboratories must be accredited. For example, first-party laboratories may gain EPA-recognition by demonstrating enrollment in an EPA-recognized Certification Body's supervised or witnessed manufacturers' testing laboratory (SMTL/WMTL) program, as described in Appendix A of “Conditions and Criteria for Recognition of Certification Bodies for the ENERGY STAR Program.” This path to recognition is an alternative to gaining recognition via EPA's laboratory recognition application form, which requires formal accreditation.

13. Q: My laboratory tests External Power Supplies that are intended for ENERGY STAR qualification. Why is this product category not included in EPA's laboratory recognition application form?

A: The ENERGY STAR External Power Supplies, Digital-to-Analog Converter Boxes, and End-Use Products (with qualified External Power Supplies) programs will be sunset at the end of calendar year 2010.

14. Q: Will EPA send someone to evaluate my laboratory during the recognition process?

A: No, EPA will not conduct a site visit. Instead, if you are seeking accreditation, staff from an EPA-recognized Accreditation Body will conduct a site visit. If you are seeking enrollment in an EPA-recognized Certification Body's supervised or witnessed manufacturers' testing laboratory (SMTL/WMTL) program, staff from that Certification Body will conduct a site visit.

15. Q: If a laboratory decides to participate in a CB's WMTL or SMTL program, how does it demonstrate its participation to EPA? What about participation with multiple certification bodies?

A: EPA will require recognized CBs to report to EPA a list of laboratories participating in a WMTL or SMTL program with them. If the laboratory tests multiple types of products, it is free to form relationships with different CBs, but there cannot be multiple CBs in one product category. For example, a laboratory may work with one CB for televisions but

another for computer monitors; it cannot use two different CBs to certify its televisions.

16. **Q: How does EPA recognition of Accreditation Bodies, Laboratories, or Certification Bodies work?**

A: The following diagram illustrates how these entities gain EPA recognition. The requirements that each organization must meet in order to gain recognition are available at www.energystar.gov/testingandverification.

